

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. Claims 2, 7 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 14-23 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9 and 11-13 are pending and under consideration.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Further to the response to restriction requirement filed on September 27, 2006, where Species I was elected with traverse, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-19 and 21-23 are the claims subject to Species I. Claims 7, 10 and 20 are subject to Species II. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that claims 14-19 and 21-23 be examined as drawn to the elected invention.

CLAIM REJECTION – 112

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 10 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 102

Claims 1, 9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsui (US 2003/0072244) (hereinafter "Matsui").

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and is therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason. Claims 9 and 11-13 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reason.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that claims 2-8 have been found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled. It is respectfully submitted that claims 3-6 and 8 are allowable in their present form.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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